[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 73: Letters 721-730

[Pages for Letters 721 and 722 are scanned out of order but transcribed as they should read]

[Front of Letter 721]
Sener S, Miller, Lancaster, Pa, Nov 19/75
Wishes a Catalogue

[Letter 721]

[US Postal Card to “Corcoran Art Gallery”, Washington, D.C.]
Lancaster, November 19, 1875

To the Curators; Sirs,

I have read a good deal about the “Art Gallery” in the “Washington Chronicle”, and I would like very much to see a Catalogue of it. If you have any please send me word how much they cost a piece, and I will forward you the money for one. By giving this your attention you will oblige me very much. Respectfully Yours,

Address { S. Miller Sener, 124 N. Prince St. Lan. Pa.

[Front of Letter 722]
Neagle G.C., Phila Dec 4/75
Dec 6/75, 6/75
Will take $375 for the Dearborn. If not purchased, please return it.

[Letter 722]

No 226 So. Third St., Philada Dec. 4/75

W. MacLeod, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I regret that Mr. Corcoran did not purchase the Dearborn portrait. You do not state his reasons for not doing so, was it because he considered the price too high? If so, rather than incur the expense attending its return to me, I will take $375.- for it, that being the sum I have offered for it here. Do me the kindness, my dear Sir, to see Mr. Corcoran, or the Members of the Art Committee and let me hear of the result.

Should they not purchase, please return the picture & frame to me, at your early convenience. The box in which the picture was packed when sent to the Library Committee of Congress, should answer the place and cost of a new one. I should like to hear from you a short time before it is sent in order to know when to expect its arrival here.

Thank you my Dear Sir, for your attention & kindness towards me. I remain, yours truly,

Garrett C. Neagle

[Front of Letter 723]
Sartain John, Phila, Dec 4, 1875
Dec 6/75, 7/75
With regard to the means of lighting Galleries, etc.

[Letter 723]

[Letterhead of Bureaus of Administration. ART. International Exhibition. 1876. United States Centennial Commission, Philadelphia]
December 4th 1875

Wm. MacLeod Esq

Dear Sir

Yours of the 2nd inst. [inclosing] letter of Dr. Hall is received. Your questions in relation to the ventilation of Picture Galleries I have answered in full in my letter of this date to Dr. Hall and he will show it to you, therefore, I need not repeat. I have illustrated it with a drawing so as to make myself [intelligable].

The “National Academy of Design” in New York had their picture galleries lit in the same way that our Academy on Philadelphia intends doing, but for the last two years they have used a ring of jets with reflectors, for the sake of economy, partly, besides that some of them prefer it. I don’t, for the picture walls look to me, gloomy, and the system of [funnell] shaped reflectors are

eyesorrows in form. Their principal gallery (perhaps 75 or 80 feet long) has three rings of jets, two large ones at the ends and a smaller one in the middle. Other galleries of less dimensions have two circles of jets. I think they save probably one half in the cost of gas. But we are going to adhere to the old method, of a line of jets all round and just under the edge of the skylight, which you will see by the drawing I have sent to Dr. Hall enters into our scheme of ventilation, and creates or promotes it. It is so long since I directed the gas fitter as to the light for the sculpture galleries I cannot clearly remember how he is doing it, except in the rooms for the study of the antique. In these latter we confine the gas flame into close clusters, making the flames touch each other as near as may be, and so keep the [sourse] of light at one point, for the sake of making shadows with definite edges. The same principle should rule to a certain extent in sculpture galleries where drawing is not practiced, but in these you can afford to have the light a little more diffused.

The builders now promise to complete our Academy building in six weeks. I hope they will. I have been busy in preparing plans for the organization of the schools, system of exhibitions etc., and the Directors will act on them on Monday week. I want very much to come to Washington but don't see how I can. I am so occupied as chief of the Art Department of the Centennial, an office put upon me wholly without my seeking, in fact I refused it when offered me three or four months before I took it.

Your truly
John Sartain

[Enclosure to Letter 723]
[Letterhead of Bureaus of Administration, ART, International Exhibition. 1876. United States Centennial Commission, Philadelphia]
December 4th, 1875

Dr. J.C. Hall

Dear Sir

Yours of the 2nd inst. is received and I hasten to reply. All [scultural] work, whether in relief only or detached, as in the case of a statue or a group, is seen to greater advantage by gas light than by day light, because the light, if properly planned, causes a more definite boundary between the light and shadow of the figure. Bronzes may be an exception, on account of their dark color causing them to absorb too much light.

But the [sourse] of light must be concentrated - not diffused, for example, the lights in the galleries for study of the antique in our Academy of the Fine Arts are ordered to be made thus [inserted drawn clustered/fanned light figure]. If a gallery of casts or statues is too large to be lit by one cluster the lights should be as remote as well may be from each other to prevent cross lights. I think the value of a collection is greater when it can be used at night, because otherwise so many cannot see it at all, and its value is still greater if open on Sunday afternoon.

I do not believe that pictures are injured by being shown by gas light if the ventilation of the gallery has been provided for the immediate escape of carbonic acid while it is yet warm, and therefore ascends, for if allowed to cool it descends down the face of the wall, and unvarnished pictures and guilt frames may be affected unfavorably by it. The plan I gave our architects I will indicate thus [inserted drawn gas light figure], A is a band of perforated metal in ornamental forms, about 20 inches broad, and being all around the flat ceiling of ground glass B (which we name "the light diffuser") and being immediately over the line of gas jets is in the best position for carrying off the heated [gases]. Of course this heated air and gas will not go out even then, unless there is ample room for a free inlet of fresh air below.

I want to come on to see your building and collection very much, but the Art Department of the Centennial which has been put on me, unsought by me keeps me more than occupied. Besides this I am busy over the organizing our New Academy.

Yours truly
John Sartain, Chief of Bureau - Department of Art. Centennial

[Front of Letter 724]
Lherbette Kane & Co., Paris Nov 18. 1875
Notice of shipment of 2 Cases. Encloses Legalized invoice.
Invoice sent Mr. Walters.

[Letter 724]

[Letterhead of Lherbette Kane & Co., Havre, 34 Rue du Chilou]
18th Nov. 1875

Mr. A. Hyde, Secr. of Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington

Dear Sir

We beg to inform that we will ship you per [?/5] "Leipzig" 20th inst. from Southampton for Baltimore [of.?] 27/28 "Corcoran Gallery of Art" Washington 2 cases pictures etc.

Enclosed please find legalised invoice of said shipment.

We are, Dear Sir, Yours truly
Lherbette Kane

[Enclosure mentioned for Letter 724 is scanned with Letter 725]

[Front of Letter 725]
Lherbette Kane & Co, Havre Nov 19/75
Encloses Bill of Lading of two cases, & Bill of charges.
Bill of Lading sent Mr. Walters, Dec 10/75

[Letter 725]
[Enclosed Bill of Lading to A. Hyde Esq. Secretary, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington on Letterhead of Lherbette Kane & Co., Agency of the North German Lloyd Steamers, Havre, 34 Rue du Chilou, 19th Nov. 1875]

[Letter 726]

[Letterhead of Number Book Department, D. Appleton & Co., 549 & 551 Broadway, New York]
Dec 7 1875

Wm. McLeod, Esq., Washington DC

Dear Sir, We regret that we are unable to procure the desired copy of the "Revue des Deux Mondes". We can send you the August 1872 [no?] of the Art Journal for $1.25

Respectfully
D. Appleton & Co.
[Hall]

[Back of Letter 726]
Appleton D. & Co., New York, Dec 7/75
Dec 8/75, 8/75
Unable to get the paper. Will send Art Journal for $1.25.

[Front of Letter 727]
Walters. W.T. Balt. Dec 7. 1875.
Dec 8/75
With regard to the removal of the Corday for the convenience of copyists.

[Letter 727 is scanned out of order but transcribed as it should read]

[Letter 727]

Balto 7th Dec 75

Mr. McLeod

If I were present with you I am not sure what I might decide but from this distance painting fine casts to [suit back pounds?] don't strike me very favorably - neither will I attempt to decide a this distance the Corday, Henry & Justice Strong affair as now you have got the thing mixed up with a half dozen things and people - but some time before long if Mr. Riggs and I hand the control of anything when we decide it should be carried out - I intend this for the future and not for this case - for you will remember in the way I spoke to you I anticipated new propositions and if you put the Corday in place on Sunday morning I fear we should have more suggestions before it was finally put up.

You will I take it not receive the Detaille before next week, when it does come put it in the place designed + give the young ladies the Corday in the side room until they have finished - how would this do? - or put the Detalle in side room until they have finished with the Corday - but in this case fit it as you like and I will be satisfied -

If you appeal to Mr. Riggs show him this letter - and whatever he decides [comment?] me of course cordially with him -

Your friend
WT. Walters

[Front of Letter 728]
Walters W.T., Balt. Dec 8. 1875
Dec 9/75
Is sorry the Gallery is to be open at night and Christmas. With regard to opening the cases in Balt.

[Letter 728]

Balto 8th Dec 75
Mr. McLeod

Dear sir

I am sorry the Gallery is to be opened at nights + Christmas especially the latter - I am afraid it is wanting in respect to certain religious [denominations?], here it wouldn't do - but if I am not mistaken even Presidents go to the theatre on "good friday" - in Washington

I do all I can to keep the Corcoran cases from being opened in the customs and shall make this effort particularly with the Detaille + vase - whilst things are in the Customs House it has become quite a practice to take liberties - a year ago Mr. Riggs + myself were invited to look at a picture in [New York?] Customs House where it remained in Ex two weeks, here it is quite a habit to invite me in Customs House to look at various things and I take it others are also asked - it isn't the thing of course - much obliged for the criticism - it [isn't] very broad, will return it [to?]

you - I go to New York tonight will be back friday night - I hope now the vase + Detalle will be sent to you Friday or Saturday, they say Friday [night?] before I get back but I doubt it - I passed the entry and the order has gone down to the ship -

Your friend
WT. Walters

[Front of Letter 729]
N.Y. Historical Society. Dec 6. 1875
Dec 9/75
Ackg receipt of Catalogue

[Letter 729]

The New York Historical Society has received Catalogue of the Corcoran Gallery of Art 8vo pp. 48. Washington:1874

A gift from The Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, for which I am instructed to return a grateful [acknowledgment.]

[Geo: Hillors?] Librarian
Library, Second Ave. cor. Eleventh St, New York city - Dec. 6-1875

[Front of Letter 730]
Thackara, Buck & Co., Phila: Dec 10/75
Dec 11/75
[Reflectors] Encloses circular & price of Reflectors.

[Letter 730]

[Letterhead of Philadelphia Gas Fixture Works. Thackara, Buck & Co., 718 Chestnut St., Philadelphia]

Mr. Wm MacLeod, Curator, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 8th inst at hand, We herewith enclose circular and price list of reflectors, which is the kind we presume you have reference to.

We will make you a discount from the reflector list of thirty per cent, and shall be pleased to fill your order

Yours Truly
Thackara buck & Co

[Enclosed circular & price list of Reflectors]